

-- REMARKS --

Claims 1-13 were pending in the application. Claims 10, 12 and 13 have been amended. The changes to the amended claims from the previous versions to the rewritten versions are shown above with brackets for deleted matter and underlines for added matter. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has requested that drawing Fig. 16 be corrected to include the legend --Prior Art--. The drawing has been corrected and is being submitted herewith. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner approve the correction.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-9 have been allowed. Further discussion of these allowed claims is therefore unnecessary.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 10, 12 and 13 have been objected to because of certain informalities. These claims have been amended to correct the noted informalities.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 10-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,761,621 to Kane et al. (hereinafter "Kane") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,923,224 to Makino et al. (hereinafter "Makino"). The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully traversed. Independent claim 10 has nevertheless been amended to further define the invention and eliminate any basis for the rejections.

Independent claim 10 is directed to an electronic circuit unit having a circulator, wherein one end of each of three central conductors disposed at intervals of 120 degrees serves as an input and output terminal. This claim also requires that adjacent input and output terminals are connected by a plurality of inductive elements, wherein a capacitive component is disposed between at least two of the inductive elements. This structure, which is exemplified in Figs. 10 and 11 of the drawings for the present application, reduces the level of the output signal that is leaked an input and output terminal (i.e., which is not to be output by the Faraday Effect). These features and limitations are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art.

In the outstanding Office Action, it has been asserted that Kane discloses most of the elements of claim 10. It has been admitted, however, that Kane fails to disclose or suggest that use of inductor elements for the external elements connecting adjacent input and output terminals. It has nevertheless been asserted that the use of inductive elements is disclosed by Makino, and that it would have been obvious to modify Kane to include the required inductor elements in view of Makino. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As set forth above, independent claim 10 requires that adjacent input and output terminals are connected by a plurality of inductive elements, wherein a capacitive component is disposed between at least two of the inductive elements. Neither Kane nor Makino disclose or suggest this arrangement. Independent claim 10 is therefore not rendered unpatentable by these prior art references. Claims 11-13 are each dependent on claim 10 and are therefore likewise patentable.

The pending claims are believed to truly distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, such allowance is now earnestly requested. If for any reason the Examiner is not able to allow the application, he is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4273.

Respectfully submitted,



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